

The Augusta Coin Club Meets on the 3rd Thursday of the Month at Be My Guest across from Mullins Crossing

The Augusta Coin Club since 1959

Pres. Steven Nix
1st V.P. Glenn Sanders
2nd V.P. Howard Black
Sec. John T. Attaway
Treas. Elaine Attaway
Sgt. in Arms: Bryan Hoyt
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Volume 14, Number 5

THE AUGUSTA COIN CLUB MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

May, 2014

Our next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 15 from 6:30 to 9:30 PM

Club's May 9-10 Show in Grovetown along the new Gateway B'ld

Club Meeting Calendar for 2014

Jan. 17	May 15	Sep. 19
Feb. 21	June 20	Oct. 17
Mar. 21	July 18	Nov. 21
Apr. 18	Aug. 15	Dec. 19

The 1914-P Barber half-dollar

By Arno Safran



A 1914 Barber Half-dollar purchased "raw" as a Fine in the 1990s, later graded VF-20 by PCGS
[Use 3x magnifying glass or enlarge page to 150%]

100 years ago, in 1914, the Philadelphia Mint struck only 124,230 Barber half dollars, the lowest mintage of the 73 dates and mint marks in the series. The coin has always been considered one of the key dates of the set (*certainly among the Philadelphia Mint issues*) and today, it is listed in the 2014 *Red Book* at \$315 in Fine-12. Considering its low mintage, the price must still be regarded as a bargain when one compares the coin with some of the other key dates of the period.

The 1909-S VDB Lincoln cent had a mintage of 484,000, almost four times the mintage of the 1914 Barber half, yet is listed at \$1,000 in Fine-12. The 1916-D *Mercury* dime, with a mintage of 264,000 had more than twice the output of the 1914 Barber half yet is listed at an exorbitant \$2,600 in Fine-12. Another popular rarity of 100 years ago is the 1914-D Lincoln cent. Despite a mintage of over one million, a specimen grading Fine-12 today could cost the collector \$385.00 according to the 2014 *Red Book*. Why is there such a disparity between the values of these other keys and the 1914-P Barber half issue?

Despite its size and elegance of design, the 1914-P Barber never achieved the popularity or demand from collectors the other keys received. Furthermore, in comparison with the smaller denominations, a half-dollar had tremendous buying power during that timeframe. Most of the laboring force receiving one in their pay envelope during the 20th Century teen years couldn't afford to save the coin and it circulated heavily.

Grovetown in Columbia County, Site of our Spring Show, growing by Leaps and Bounds



Member Vilma Safran standing in front of the right side Entrance of the Columbia County Exposition Center where our May 9-10 Show is being held

When our club newsletter was initiated thirteen years ago, the tiny village of Appling was more like a small hamlet than as a county seat and Grovetown--enclosed in a small circular area in our local maps--was not much bigger. The village consisted of a few shops along Wrightsboro Road and a number of homes located within the perimeter, nothing more. Today those shops and houses have been dwarfed by a new Wal-Mart shopping Center, also a new branch of the Center for Primary Care, a number of restaurants (including Applebee's) and the opening of the Columbia County Exposition Center located at 212 Partnership Drive just off Gateway B'ld.

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Grovetown in Columbia County, Site of our Spring Show, growing by Leaps and Bounds

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The Central façade of the Columbia County Exposition Center

During the past several years Grovetown has seen expansive growth in the number of new sub-divisions that have been built between Columbia and Wrightstown Roads, a number of new schools, a library, two Food Lion shopping centers on Columbia Road, many new roads serving the sub-divisions from though roads including the extension of William Few Parkway from Columbia Road where Patriot's Park and the Fairgrounds are located all the way to Lewiston Road just before Interchange 190 of I-290.

The decision to relocate our coin show from Patriot's Park in the more distant reaches of Columbia County to the center of Grovetown should benefit our club greatly. Just recently the Columbia Exposition Center parking lot was packed with citizens attending a political rally. The area has become a well known entity with easy access to I-20 for club members located from Aiken to Thomson and beyond.

As of this edition of the newsletters goes to press, Show Chairman David Chism has reported forty tables sold for our May 9-10 show. The capacity of the rental area for this spring event is 47 tables. The hours of the show are 9 AM to 5 PM both days.

Directions:

From Aiken and N. Augusta: Take I-20 westbound to Interchange 190. At end of exit ramp, turn left. At second light, Gateway B'lv'd, make another left and follow Gateway Blvd passed Wal-Mart on left, Appleby's and Center for Primary Care to long building on right. Turn right on Partnership Drive. The left side of the Expo Center is a Family Y and the right entrance, 212 Partnership Drive is where our show is being held.

From downtown Augusta: Take River Watch Parkway to i-20 west and follow as above.

From Atlanta area and Thomson, take I-20 East to Interchange 190. Turn right and then left at Gateway B'lv'd traffic light and follow as above to the show site.

2014 Club Medallions to be sold at Show

The 2014 club medallions will be on display at the Welcoming Desk at our upcoming show. The medallions struck in antique bronze, copper and silver wash portray the boyhood home of President Woodrow Wilson who grew up in Augusta. A single medallion sells for \$10.00, a set for \$28.00.

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